

**UNIFORMED SERVICES DISABLED RETIREES****Director for Legislative Affairs****720 Sundown Court, Las Cruces, NM 88011****Telephone 505-522-3317/Email [Legislative@USDR.ORG](mailto:Legislative@USDR.ORG)****April 1, 2007****The Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz  
2110 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4327****Dear Congressman Ortiz,**

**On behalf of the Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees, and our widows, I write to express our support and endorsement for your proposed submission of companion legislation to S. 935, Military Retiree Survivor Equity Act, introduced by Senator Bill Nelson, on March 20, 2007.**

**This proposed legislation would end two major inequities imposed on military retirees and survivors participating in the military Survivor Benefit Plan.**

**First, it would end the dollar-for-dollar deduction "the widow's tax" of VA death benefits from military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities, which leaves many military widows with only a \$1067 monthly annuity, even though the service directly caused the member's death. Some 59,000 widows would benefit from this change.**

**Second, it would move up the 2008 effective date of 30-year paid-up SBP coverage to 1 Oct 2007, and end disproportional financial penalties on earlier retirees, who have already paid almost 25% more in SBP premiums than post-1978 retirees will have to pay. Some 172,000 retirees would benefit from this change.**

**Thank you for supporting our survivors and ending the overpayment of premiums for those who are now age 70 and have paid SBP premiums for 30 years.**

**Respectfully,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Charles D. Revie'.

**Charles D. Revie  
LTC, US Army, Retired  
USDR Legislative Director**